

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8697

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2189

LIMDIS

NAIROBI FOR ASST SECTY DAVIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA)(SMITH, KENNETH STEPHEN)
(HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: NEGOTIATIONS

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 2177; DAR ES SALAAM 2188 (NOTAL)

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF PRP IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS ALFRED NONDO, MEMBER OF PRP REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND BRIGADIER GENERAL IN PRP ARMY, AND PORTEFEUILLE KATCHOKA, ARMY LIEUTENANT AND AIDE TO NONDO. THEY HAD ARRIVED IN DAR BY TRAIN FROM KIGOMA. WE HAVE NO DOUBT OF THEIR BONA FIDES; NONDO IS THE QTE ALFRED UNQTE WHO WAS PRINCIPAL CONTACT WITH STUDENTS BEFORE BARBARA SMUTS RELEASED. NONDO, WHO HAS DONE ALL THE TALKING, IS INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE, SELF-POSSESSED AND CONFIDENT.

2. MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL, BUT AFTER OUTLINING
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PRP PRINCIPLES AND DEMANDS, AND BEING TOLD THAT WE COULD NOT PAY

RANSOM OR GIVE ARMS, BUT COULD PROMISE PUBLICITY AND TRY INFLUENCE TANGOV TO RELEASE PRISONERS, NONDO DROPPED DEMANDS FOR ARMS AND SAID ALTHOUGH PRP STILL EXPECTED US MAKE EFFORT GET PRISONERS RELEASED, IT RECOGNIZED THAT WE MIGHT BE UNABLE TO DO SO (HE ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT ONE OF PRISONERS WHOSE RELEASE WAS DEMANDED, GABRIEL YUNGU, WAS PROBABLY DEAD).

3. HOWEVER, NONDO INSISTED THAT THE DEMAND FOR 200,000 POUNDS STERLING COULD NOT BE DROPPED OR REDUCED, AND THAT HE HAD NO AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER TO MODIFY THIS DEMAND AS HE HAD AUTHORITY TO MODIFY THE OTHERS.

4. WE REITERATED THAT NEITHER US NOR NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENTS HAD AUTHORITY TO PAY MONEY RANSOM, BUT THAT WE HAD NO AUTHORITY OVER PARENTS OR THEIR FRIENDS, THOUGH AMOUNT DEMANDED CLEARLY MORE THAN THEY COULD COME UP WITH. DR. HAMBURG THEN SAID THAT PARENTS HAD BEEN SEEKING RAISE MONEY, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER. WE THEN ADJOURNED BRIEFLY, WHILE OUR TEAM CONSULTED PRIVATELY WITH MESSRS. HUNTER AND SMITH.

5. HUNTER AND SMITH TOLD US THEY PREPARED TO TRY TO RAISE SOME SUM OF MONEY, AND WE AGREED THAT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF DETERIORATING STATE OF THINGS IN ZAIRE AND DEVELOPMENTS AS REPORTED IN KINSHASA 5490, IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO PRESS FORWARD TO A RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

6. WE THEN RECONVENED MEETING WITH PRP EMISSARIES, AND ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT WE HAD AGREED WITH PARENTS, SAID WE WOULD NEED UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING (JUNE 21) TO GET AN IDEA OF WHAT IF ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY PARENTS COULD RAISE-- AND ALSO FOR DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO COMMUNICATE WITH EMILIE BERGMANN'S FAMILY IN THE NETHERLANDS. WE ALSO PROPOSED, AND OBTAINED NONDO'S AGREEMENT, THAT NO PUBLICITY SHOULD BE GIVEN BY EITHER SIDE TO ANY MONEY GIVEN TO PRP IN EXCHANGE FOR RELEASE OF STUDENTS. WE ALSO AGREED THAT WE WOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO SEEK RELEASE OF 12 PRP PRISONERS (NONDO GAVE US A LIST OF THE NAMES) WHICH PRP CLAIMS TANGOV STILL HOLDING. WE THEN ADJOURNED NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING.

7. HAMBURG AND PARENTS ARE NOW TELEPHONING TO UNITED STATES TO
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SEEK STATUS OF FUND RAISING EFFORTS, WHILE DUTCH AMBASSADOR IS CONTACTING HIS GOVERNMENT AND BEGGMANN FAMILY. BRYCESON HAS CHARGED HIMSELF WITH SEEKING RELEASE OF PRISONERS (AND WE WILL TAKE IT UP AT FOREIGN MINISTRY TOMORROW), THOUGH POSSIBLE NOTHING DEFINITIVE ON PRISONER RELEASE CAN BE DONE UNTIL NYERERE RETURNS FROM SOUTH, PROBABLY ON SUNDAY.

8. WE HAVE ARRANGED EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PRP EMISSARIES

INSIDE CHANCERY, WITH EXTRA MSG, AND THEY WILL REMAIN ON PREMISES UNTIL THIS EXERCISE CONCLUDED.

9. WHEN SATURDAY NEGOTIATING SESSION OPENS WE WILL TRY TO GET AWAY WITH SOME REASONABLE AMOUNT FOR PARENTS TO PAY, BUT IF THIS PROVES UNSUCCESSFUL PARENTS ARE PREPARED TO PAY TOTAL AMOUNT

RATHER THAN PROLONG NEGOTIATIONS DANGEROUSLY. IN THIS CASE WE WOULD ADJOURN MEETING FOR A FEW HOURS, BUT SEEK TO COME TO FINAL AGREEMENT BEFORE END OF DAY SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXCHANGE CAN BE INITIATED IMMEDIATELY. ABOVE ALL, WE BELIEVE THAT FOR NONDO TO HAVE TO RETURN TO HIS BASE FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, BOTH BECAUSE OF CHANGING ZAIRE SITUATION, AND BECAUSE ANY DELAY OR DIFFICULTY HE ENCOUNTERED COULD JEOPARDIZE ENTIRE OPERATION.

10. WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO KEEP THIS ENTIRE OPERATION ABSOLUTELY QUIET, AND PARENTS, HAMBURG, AND BRYCESON ALL REALIZE IMPORTANCE OF THIS.
CARTER

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